

Peninsula Enterprise.

ACCOMAC COURT-HOUSE, VA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1886.

Entered at the Postoffice at Accomac, C. H., Va., as second-class matter.

The announcement some days ago, that an execution had been issued on a judgment recently obtained against Gen. Grant in favor of Vanderbilt, created a feeling of surprise throughout the country. The announcement made this week that Gen. Grant declines the proffered generosity of a few friends, who had raised sufficient funds to relieve him of his financial straits is cause for still greater surprise. That the great gift taker of the country, who has been the recipient of everything from a bull pup to a city mansion, should be troubled with such delicate sensibilities in this respect, at this late day, is truly surprising. But Grant's conduct in the matter though surprising, is not inexplicable. The restoration of his pay as general of the army of the United States is worth more to him than relief from present ills and to decline that relief, is to advance the object he desires more. He believes that his great services to his country should make him the pensioner of the nation. And of course so potent a factor, to promote that end, as sympathy for his distresses is not to be taken away by the kindness of his friends. And perhaps it is right to have his pay as general restored to him. At least in return for the generosity shown by him to Southern leaders, at the close of the late war, whatever wrong he has done the South since, Southern representatives should, not perhaps, antagonize steps taken for the enactment of a law for the accomplishment of that object.

Earthquake shocks are reported from various parts of the world. In our country they have only slightly shaken up the inhabitants of New York, Maryland and Virginia, but in Italy, Chili and elsewhere the shocks have been much more severe and been attended with terrible consequences to both life and property. In Spain especially, have they been of an appalling nature, hundreds of lives having already been lost and thousands of dollars worth of property having been destroyed by them. The official reports show that 900 lives were lost in Granada, Spain, and the constant succession of earthquake shocks there makes them even apprehensive that still greater evil may yet befall them. According to later advices earthquake shocks with terrible results still continue in Spain and elsewhere in Europe. At Madrid, Spain a church, a convent and fifty houses were destroyed on Monday and at Loja on Wednesday, three hundred houses were badly damaged. In those places trade is at a standstill, the houses are deserted at night and many of the people are ill from terror. In Switzerland and France also slight shock of earthquake have been felt. Will they continue, and with what results, of course no one can answer.

Mr. D. L. Moody, commenced a series of religious meetings in Richmond last Sunday and the large attendance of the people reported, seems to indicate that they disbelieve the charges made against him of having cast aspersions upon Lee and Jackson. At least he claims to have always had the highest opinion of them both as Christians and gentlemen and emphatically denies ever having said anything derogatory to either of them. Without that denial, no one having a proper respect for himself, who reveres the memory of either of our great Confederate chieftains could have attended his meetings, the denial being made, it occurs to us that the party who made the charges might have been mistaken. At least it is charitable to give the benefit of the doubt to one whose reputation is world-wide not so much as scholar, theologian, or orator as a man eminent for piety and good works.

It is announced that the trustees of the University of Virginia have determined to build a large hospital and stable for the treatment of diseases of domestic animals. A great deal of preparation has already been made in the direction of founding a veterinary faculty, and several professors have been in Europe fitting themselves for this work. A special department is to be devoted to the care of pet and sporting dogs. A well-known Philadelphia lady proposes endowing a department for cats.

Norfolk Ledger: The fact that Mahone is now Postmaster General in Virginia may account for the irregularity of the mails in many sections of the State.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Virginia gunboat Chesapeake, with Gov. Cameron on board, sailed last Wednesday night for Washington to receive her armament.

Rev. J. J. Lafferty, stenographer of the Virginia Senate, has been named for the place made vacant in the House of Representatives by the death of Mr. Lord.

R. R. Farr, Superintendent of Public Instruction, has made preparations for the next meeting of superintendents of the schools of the State, which is to be held in Richmond in February.

Diphtheria in a very malignant form prevails to an alarming extent in Bedford county, death in many instances following the attack in 18 hours. The mortality among children is great, as many as five dying in a single family.

The friends of Hon. James Keith, of the eleventh judicial circuit, are desirous that his name should be presented to the board of visitors of the University of Virginia for the chair of constitutional law and equity, vacated by the recent death of Professor Southall.

Gov. Cameron and his staff will visit the New Orleans Exposition about the first week in February, in time to witness the Mardi Gras parade. There will be ten persons in the party, and the members of the Governor's staff will go in full uniform.

There is still talk about a railroad from Richmond through Virginia to a point on the Great Western river in Middlesex county, thence by steamer to Crisfield, Md., and on east, via the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad connection. Several capitalists in Richmond are said to be backing the enterprise. It is also stated that Eastern capital is waiting for the enterprise to ripe.

Among those who are spoken of in connection with the vacancy in the professorship of International and Constitutional Law at the University of Virginia are Judge Barker, late of the Supreme Court; Prof. Samuel D. Davies, formerly Professor of Law at Richmond College, and Judge James Keith, of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. The Washington Capital also announces the candidacy of John S. Wise.

The present Board of Visitors, which was appointed by Gov. Cameron, stands four to four for the appointment, it is said, of Wise, with one vacancy. Attorney General Blair is chairman of the Board, and would have the casting vote in the event of a tie.

The Old Dominion steamer Accomac, and the steamer Luray of the same line, the former bound in from Smithfield and the latter going to Newport News with passengers for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, collided on Jan. 5th in middle channel, about half way between Craney Island and Lambert's Point. The accident was due, it is alleged, to the dense fog that prevailed at that hour. The Accomac was struck forward of the mainmast and sunk in about twenty minutes in six fathoms of water. The passengers and baggage were promptly transferred to the Luray. The Luray had a hole about ten by three feet stove in her port bow above water line. She returned to the city and her injury was temporarily repaired at Grave's shipyard.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

In the last three months, and a half there have been received at the port of New York 862,700 dozen of foreign eggs.

General Grant has been examined by five eminent physicians, who declare that he is completely broken down physically and requires absolute rest.

President-elect Cleveland last Tuesday sent the following note to the Legislature of his State: "I hereby resign the office of Governor of the State of New York."

Hon. Frank Hurd has served formal notice of a contest upon Hon. Jacob Kameis, representative elect from the Tenth Ohio congressional district. Hurd charges fraud and intimidation of workmen by employers.

The cold weather has caused much suffering among the poor classes in most of the large cities of Kansas, especially among colored people, many of whom have recently come from the South and are destitute.

The Democratic members of Congress are said to be quietly arranging a system for the distribution of patronage under the incoming administration, with a view to prevent a rush of office seekers upon President Cleveland at the out set of his administration.

Julius D. Pelsch died at Charleston, S. C., last Sunday, aged 78 years. He was the first railroad engineer in the United States, and in 1839 drove the "Best Friend," the first locomotive built in this country, on a South Carolina railway, then the longest in the world.

The huge tower of Philadelphia's new City Hall is gradually settling. Granite blocks in the building have been broken and split by the weight of masonry. Workmen are busily employed in cutting the joints and repairing forced out sections. Evidence is found of hasty and improper bricklaying.

In an interview in Chicago recently Mr. Hendricks expressed the opinion that the Southern States should be represented in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet. He said he had no intention of interfering with the President's purposes, political or otherwise. With reference to Mr. Cleveland's civil service letter, he believed the removal of intensely partisan officeholders would satisfy the Democrats.

THE VIRGINIA DEFALCATION.

The Shortage in the Auditor's Office Not Less Than \$160,000.

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 6.—Recent developments in the defalcations discovered in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State indicate that the loss will hardly be less than \$100,000, and some of those engaged in the investigation of the affair say they will not be surprised if the evidence proves that it is \$150,000. The special committee appointed by the House of Delegates to investigate and report upon this defalcation have been at work for some weeks. They have heard a good deal of testimony and collected much valuable evidence. The burden of much of which shows that for seven or eight years various sums of money paid into the office on account of taxes have not been credited on the books. For a time it was thought the embezzlements were confined to the accounts of the court clerks, but later developments show that they exist in several others. The latest discovery that has been made in this case shows that a check for \$1,326 paid by the Western Union Telegraph Company for tax assessed against them was not credited on the books of the Auditor's office, although the check had been deposited and collected. In another instance the Merchants' National Bank of this city, paid in \$896 for taxes due the State. In both of these cases, as well as in all of the others in which any irregularities have been discovered, the money or checks were paid to Mr. W. R. Smith, the late first auditing clerk in the Auditor's office. Smith is in jail, where he has been for the past two or three weeks, awaiting an investigation by the grand jury of the Criminal Court. He has employed able counsel, and will make a vigorous defense. One of the complications of this case is that all of the money alleged to have been diverted was paid in by the several taxpayers in plain violation of law, and was not, therefore, the property of the Commonwealth. It is an admitted fact that by a sort of general consent, as was the habit, all of these accounts were paid into the Auditor's office directly, instead of being paid in to the State depositories to her credit. It is a question now whether the loss is to fall upon the taxpayers or the Commonwealth, and will have to be decided by the courts. These irregularities cover a period during which the Democrats and the Republicans were in control of the State government. They were spoken of as the heaviest that have ever occurred in the history of the Commonwealth. Their magnitude and the manner in which they took place, it is believed, will induce the Governor to call the Legislature in extra session. It is confidently expected that body will be called to meet about April or May next to take steps in regard to this matter.—Baltimore Sun.

Turning the Rascals Out.

It is very touching to observe the anxiety of the Republican organs on the subject of a non-partisan civil service. They are only half pleased with the unequivocal declarations of Mr. Cleveland's recent letter. His determination not to make removals on mere partisan grounds is all right, but the idea that he may actually appoint some Democrats to office strikes them as something terrible. And yet to the unprejudiced observer it is not easy to see how a non-partisan civil service is to be secured without getting rid of the partisan service that for so many years has disgraced the country and corrupted its politics.

A Government official who has been only an official, attending to his business with a proper sense of his public obligations, is at least as likely to be secure under the administration of President Cleveland as he would have been under the administration of President Blaine. But the man who has been a partisan first and an official afterwards, using the influence of his position for party ends and devoting to party the time for which he was paid by the public—such a man's dismissal is demanded by every principle of sound civil-service reform. Mr. Cleveland's letter was especially important and valuable because he made this fundamental principle perfectly clear. It would be silly to waste so much talk upon civil service reform if the civil service did not need reforming, as so many of the Republican papers would now have us believe. It does need it, badly, and any President who expects to build up a business-like administration, while he may retain a good deal of the present material, will find that the greater portion of it will need to be renewed.—Philadelphia Times.

Is Wilkes Booth Dead?

The Globe Publishing Company of Washington, D. C., have in press a small volume giving a history of the assassination of Lincoln and of the relations of many distinguished persons to that event and to Booth. Much of the book is designed to show that Booth still lives, and that the reward of \$100,000 proffered by Stanton enabled Booth to escape. In other words the man whom Booth hired to accompany Harold from the bridge over the East Branch, and who was killed in the barn near the Rappahannock, was never seen or identified, except by those who shared among themselves the \$100,000. The writer of the volume insists that Booth is now with El Mahdi, as shown by extracts from letters from the Sudan recently published in the London Times.

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